

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A bicycle derailleur comprising:

a first base member structured to be detachably mounted to a bicycle frame, wherein the first base member has a first abutment;

a second base member structured to be mounted to the first base member, wherein the second base member has a second abutment that faces the first abutment of the first base member;

wherein the first base member and the second base member define a housing space therebetween;

a drive mechanism having a drive mechanism housing, ~~other than a housing of a motor itself,~~ at least partially disposed in the housing space;

wherein the drive mechanism housing is separate from the first and second base members.

a link mechanism having a link member that moves in response to movement of the drive mechanism;

wherein the drive mechanism housing has a link shaft extending therefrom to which the link member is mounted for pivoting around a rotational axis of the link shaft;

a chain guide coupled to the link mechanism for moving a chain among a plurality of sprockets; and

a misalignment inhibiting structure disposed between the first base member and the second base member to inhibit misalignment of the drive mechanism housing by ~~inhibiting misalignment of the first base member and the second base member relative to each other as a result of an external force~~ preventing forces applied to the first and second base members from being transmitted to the drive mechanism housing.

CLAIM 2 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the link mechanism comprises a four-point link mechanism.

CLAIM 3 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The derailleur according to 2 wherein the link mechanism comprises:

a first link member having a first end pivotably coupled to the ~~drive mechanism~~ link shaft and a second end pivotably coupled to the chain guide; and

a second link member having a first end pivotably coupled to the drive mechanism and a second end pivotably coupled to the chain guide.

CLAIM 4 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the misalignment mechanism comprises an interlock mechanism to interlock the first base member with the second base member.

CLAIM 5 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 4 wherein the interlock mechanism inhibits relative rotation between the first base member and the second base member in at least one rotational direction.

CLAIM 6 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 5 wherein the interlock mechanism includes a shape of the first abutment and the second abutment.

CLAIM 7 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 6 wherein a first abutment portion of the first abutment is bent relative to a second abutment portion of the first abutment in a direction facing the second abutment.

CLAIM 8 (WITHDRAWN): The derailleur according to claim 7 wherein the first abutment portion is substantially perpendicular to the second abutment portion.

CLAIM 9 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 7 wherein the first abutment portion is inclined relative to the second abutment portion.

CLAIM 10 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 7 wherein the first abutment portion is substantially straight, and wherein the second abutment portion is substantially straight.

CLAIM 11 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 7 wherein the first abutment further comprises a third abutment portion that is bent relative to the second abutment portion.

CLAIM 12 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 11 wherein the second abutment portion is disposed between the first abutment portion and the third abutment portion.

CLAIM 13 (WITHDRAWN): The derailleur according to claim 12 wherein the second abutment portion is substantially perpendicular to at least one of the first abutment portion and the third abutment portion.

CLAIM 14 (WITHDRAWN): The derailleur according to claim 13 wherein the second abutment portion is substantially perpendicular to both the first abutment portion and the third abutment portion.

CLAIM 15 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 12 wherein the second abutment portion is inclined relative to at least one of the first abutment portion and the third abutment portion.

CLAIM 16 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 15 wherein the second abutment portion is inclined relative to both the first abutment portion and the third abutment portion.

CLAIM 17 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 12 wherein the first abutment portion is offset relative to the third abutment portion.

CLAIM 18 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 17 wherein the first abutment portion is aligned substantially parallel to the third abutment portion.

CLAIM 19 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 4 wherein the interlock mechanism comprises an interlock member coupled between the first base member and the second base member.

CLAIM 20 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 19 wherein the first base member has a first recess for receiving a first end of the interlock member therein, and wherein the second base member has a second recess for receiving a second end of the interlock member therein.

CLAIM 21 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 19 wherein the interlock member has a tubular shape.

CLAIM 22 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 21 wherein the first base member and the second base member are structured to accommodate a screw extending through the interlock member.

CLAIM 23 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 21 wherein the first base member has a first recess for receiving a first end of the interlock member therein, and wherein the second base member has a second recess for receiving a second end of the interlock member therein.

CLAIM 24 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 23 wherein the interlock mechanism includes a shape of the first abutment and the second abutment so that engagement of the first and second abutments inhibits relative rotation between the first base member and the second base member in at least one rotational direction.

CLAIM 25 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 24 wherein the first abutment contacts at least a portion of the second abutment.

CLAIM 26 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein a portion of the drive mechanism housing is exposed ~~from~~ at a location between the first and second base members.

CLAIM 27 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A bicycle derailleur comprising:
a first base member structured to be detachably mounted to a bicycle frame, wherein the first base member has a first abutment;
a second base member structured to be mounted to the first base member, wherein the second base member has a second abutment that faces the first abutment of the first base member;
wherein the first base member and the second base member define a housing space therebetween;
a drive mechanism having a drive mechanism housing at least partially disposed in the housing space;
a link mechanism that moves in response to movement of the drive mechanism;
a chain guide coupled to the link mechanism for moving a chain among a plurality of sprockets; and
a misalignment inhibiting structure disposed between the first base member and the second base member to inhibit misalignment of the drive mechanism housing by inhibiting misalignment of

the first base member and the second base member relative to each other as a result of an external force;

~~The derailleur according to claim 1~~ wherein the first and second base members are fastened together by a fastener that extends through the drive mechanism housing.